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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /094 W
----------035168 262109Z /73
P 261630Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0803
RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 0077
RUDKRB/AMCONSUL ZAGREB 0059

UNCLAS TRIESTE 0041

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ECON, IT
SUBJ: COMMERCIAL FISHING AGREEMENT WITH YUGOSLAVIA
SURPRISES TRIESTE

1. SUMMARY. HIGHLIGHTING ACCUSATIONS OF NEGLIGENCE IN ROME AND RENEWED BITTERNESS OVER OSIMO, LOCAL PRESS HAS HEADLINED FOR THE PAST FIVE DAYS THE LOSS TO ITALIANS OF APPARENTLY RICH FISHING GROUNDS ON THE YUGOSLAV SIDE OF THE GULF OF TRIESTE. LOCAL PARLIAMENTARIANS AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS HAVE GONE TO ROME FOR HELP AND BEFORE THE PROBLEM IS FINALLY RESOLVED THE EEC MAY BECOME ENMESHED IN IT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WHAT ONE LOCAL PAPER HAS DESCRIBED AS A "SENSATIONAL GAFFE" FISHERMEN AT THE NORTHERNMOST END OF THE ADRIATIC HAVE LOST, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, ACCESS TO RICH FISHING GROUNDS NEAR TRIESTE. FOR 22 YEARS - UNTIL DECEMBER 31 OF 1977 - AGREEMENTS BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY ON JOINT FISHING RIGHTS IN THE ADRIATIC INCLUDED A RECTANGULAR AREA 3.5 X 9.5 MILES ALONG THEIR DISPUTED BORDER IN THE GULF OF TRIESTE. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT "FUNCTIONARIES" IN
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THE ITALIAN MERCHANT MARINE MINISTRY EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO OMIT THE AREA FROM THE JOINT AGREEMENT WHEN EXTENSION TO JUNE 78 WAS NEGOTIATED LAST YEAR. THE MINISTRY REPORTEDLY FELT THAT SINCE THE TREATY OF OSIMO DELIMITED THE BORDER BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY - LEAVING TWO-THIRDS OF THE RECTANGLE ON THE ITALIAM SIDE - IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE COMMON-USE PROVISION.

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3. SINCE WORD WAS PASSED LAST WEEK THAT ITALIANS COULD NO LONGER FISH IN THE YUGOSLAV THIRD OF THE RECTANGLE THE STORY HAS DOMINATED THE LOCAL MEDIA AND INFURIATED LOCAL LEADERS, NOT TO MENTION THE SEVERAL HUNDRED FISHERMEN INVOLVED. IT TURNS OUT THAT THE COMMERCIALLY MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE RECTANGLE IS NOW IN YUGOSLAVIA, DESPITE THE FACT THAT ITALY S PORTION IS TWICE AS LARGE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS THE MARINE MINISTRY ASKED ONLY FOR THE OPINION OF "FEDERPESCA" THE NATIONAL COMMERCIAL FISHING ORGANIZATION IN MAKING ITS DECISION. ONE LOCAL WEEKLY STATED THIS GROUP IS MAINLY COMPOSED OF LARGE COMPANIES WHO HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN THE RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE GULF OF TRIESTE. REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT NEREO STOPPER (DC), WHO WENT TO ROME TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH THE MARINE MINISTRY WHILE AREA PARLIAMENTARIANS EXPRESSED THEIR BEEP CONCERN TO FINANCE MINISTER MOCLINO, IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THE MOST WORRISOME AND SURPRISING ASPECT ... IS THAT NEITHER THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT NOR THE LOCAL COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY WAS CONSULTED OR NOTIFIED OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING" BEFORE THE CHAMGE WAS EFFECTIVE.

5. IT APPEARS THAT ROME WILL SEEK A TEMPORARY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, PRIMARILY BECAUSE NO NEW AGREEMENT CAN UNCLASSIFIED

BE SIGNED BETWEEN ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA: ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EC) PROVISIONS REQUIRE THAT COMMERCIAL FISHING ACCORDS WITH NON-MEMBER NATIONS BE NEGOTIATED BY THE COMMUNITY RATHER THAN BEING REACHED BILATERALLY. IN ANY EVENT, AGAIN ACCORDING TO LOCAL REPORTS, THE YUGOSLAVS WILL LIKELY EXACT A PCICE, WHERE NONE WAS CHARGED PREVIOUSLY, FOR PERMITTING ITALIANS TO FISH IN THE AREA. AND, WHILE INITIAL SOUNDINGS IN BELGRADE APPEAR FAVORABLE TO WORKING OUT SUCH A "MINI-ACCORD", TRIESTE S "IL PICCOLO" REPORTED THAT THE SLOVENE STATE GOVERNMENT IN LUBLIANA HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO A RETURN TO COMMON USE OF THE RECTANGLE.

6. LOCAL REACTION, WIDELY PUBLICIZED, IS THAT OSIMO AND ROME S FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH THOSE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY ITS ACTIONS ARE THE SOURCE OF THIS LATEST SETBACK TO TRIESTE. TRIESTE S WEEKLY "IL MERIDIANO" POINTED OUT THAT OSIMO HAD NOTHING DIRECTLY TO DO WITH THE FISHING PACT, NOTING THAT EXISTING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE SPECIFICALLY STATED TO REMAIN IN EFFECT AFTER THE TREATY S RATIFICATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE PRESS HAS NOTED THAT THE INCIDENT HAS RAISED PASSIONS ONCE AGAIN AGAINST

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OSIMO AND ITS AUTHORS, JUST AS LOCAL OPPOSITION TO THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE ENVISAGED BY THE TREATY SEEMED TO BE COOLING OFF. PATTERSON.

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Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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